

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

February 19, 2015

RE: HB 5521 An Act Concerning Licensure of Master's Level Psychologists

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut and as a faculty member at the University of Hartford, Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521.

In my role as Associate Director and Assistant Professor in a Psychology Doctoral Training Program, I am acutely aware of the distinct differences in training for Master's Level and Doctoral trained clinicians. The University of Hartford also houses a School Psychology Master's, a terminal Clinical Master's program and our Doctoral Candidates earn a Master's degree at the conclusion of their second year in our program. The term "Psychologist" reflects doctoral level providers both in Connecticut and on a national level and the quality and quantity of training beyond the Master's level is significant for our students earning their doctorate. This bill does not impact school psychologists, as they are under the authority of the Department of Education.

Allowing licensure of master's level psychologists, who are currently able to be licensed in Connecticut as "Licensed Professional Counselors" (LPC's), would create public confusion regarding provider education and training and is a slap in the face to our doctoral students who must make significantly greater financial, personal, and time sacrifices to earn the title of Licensed Psychologist. Maintaining this distinction is essential for student dignity, public awareness and preventing Managed Care from implementing equivalent pay scales for Master's and Doctoral level providers.

For these reasons, I am strongly urging you to oppose HB 5521.



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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY